(b) whether these books denigrate Christianity and Islam and their followers;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps against this organisation in the interest of communal harmony ; and

(d) the details of steps proposed to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) to (d) The National Steering Committee on Text Book Evaluation constituted by the Department of Education in 1991 considered the publications brought out by the Vidya Bharti Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Sansthan. This Committee recommended that the use of this series entitled 'Sanskriti Jnan' should be disallowed from use in schools. The Committee, *inter-alia*, recommended that textbooks should be written in conformity to the National Curricular Framework and guidelines prepared by NCERT. It also recommended the setting up of State Boards which will be responsible for the preparation and authorisation of textbooks to be used in schools. The two reports by the Committee were circulated to the State Governments for necessary follow-up action.

Upgradation of Regional Engineering Colleges

4344. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY :
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all the regional engineering colleges are proposed to be upgraded to the level of IITs; and

(b) if so, what are the features of upgradation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) An Advisory Committee constituted by the Ministry of information Technology has recommended that more IIT type of institutions of higher learning and excellence in Information Technology, should be established and some of the leading engineering colleges which already have good facilities, be considered for upgradation. The Advisory Committee has also suggested some names of engineering colleges including RECs, which could be considered for upgradation. The suggestions of the Advisory Committee, are being considered by this Ministry.